

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4196

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS LONDON 12051

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP, US

SUBJECT: ROMULO INTERVIEW ON US BASES IN PHILIPPINES

LONDON TIMES OF AUGUST 3 CARRIES LENGTHY INTERVIEW GIVEN BY PHILIPPINE FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO TO TIMES CORRESPONDENT PETER HAZELHURST IN MANILA. ROMULO IS QUOTED AS STATING PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED US IT WANTS TO EXERCISE FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER US BASES AND TAKE OVER COMMAND OF CLARK FIELD AND SUBIC BAY. A REPORTED DIRECT QUOTE FROM ROMULO READS: "THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IN A CASE OF CONFLICT THEY WILL NOT RETALIATE IN THE PHILIPPINES UNLESS THEIR BASES ARE ATTACKED. WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES OF THESE BASES HERE? HOW CAN WE HELP THEM MAINTAIN THESE BASES HERE IF THEY ARE ONLY HERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFENDING AMERICAN INTERESTS AND NOT FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES?" ROMULO ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT LACK OF PHILIPPINE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION OVER AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL ON THE BASES.

2. COPIES OF FULL TEXT POUCHED TO AMEMBASSY MANILA AND TO EA/PHL IN DEPARTMENT.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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